

Business Area #4: Central Square

Boundaries: Sellers Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Inman Street, Bishop Allen Drive, Main Street, Windsor Street, Massachusetts Avenue and Landsdowne Street

Major areas of Business/Retail/Industrial Concentration include: shops, offices, restaurants between 200 and 830 Massachusetts Avenue, offices on Bishop Allen Drive, restaurants on Green Street, and establishments between 770 and 910 Main Street



Central Square

Despite the increase in **larcenies from buildings** this quarter, the total is still lower than the average for the last five years. Historically, thefts from offices and retail establishments on the 400 and 500 block of Mass. Ave. have driven the total. This year, incidents have shifted to the 500 and 600 block of Mass. Ave. Multiple incidents were reported at the YMCA on Mass. Ave. involving thefts of credit cards from locked lockers at the gym and other thefts of unattended belongings in the building. The Boston Sports Club on Mass. Ave. also reported four incidents of belongings being stolen out of locked lockers while patrons exercised. Thieves continue to target health clubs citywide in search of credit cards to be used at area retail establishments before the patrons even realize the cards are missing. • In the late 1990s, **larceny from person** incidents typically involved pickpockets working the bus stops and streets in Central Square. The presence of professional pickpockets has since subsided. The majority of the incidents reported in the first six months of 2003 involved the theft of wallets and purses of patrons at local cafes and restaurants. Purses left on the floor or on the backs of chairs and wallets left in hanging jackets become easy targets for would-be thieves. • **Commercial Burglary** is down significantly from totals reported over the last five years. Only eight commercial breaks were reported in the first six months of 2003 and no patterns emerged. • All four of the **commercial robberies** occurred during the first two months of the year. Three of the four were bank robberies. Two of the banks targeted were located in the 600 block of Mass. Ave. In each of the bank robberies an unknown suspect entered the bank and passed a note to the teller, demanding money. In one of the robberies, the robber was given a dye pack, which then exploded in the stairwell of the Central Square T-station. An increase in bank robberies was experienced citywide and throughout the greater Boston metro area this year. • The Central Square business district typically reports between 30 and 40 incidents of **shoplifting** per six months. Last year the total increased slightly from the average, however, this year, the total is back down to a normal level. Drug stores and video stores in the 600 block of Mass. Ave. were heavily targeted. • The favored **flim flam** in Central Square continues to be the "pigeon drop," where victims are duped into removing money from their bank accounts in order to fund or show good faith in "get rich quick" schemes.

CRIME	2 nd Quarter 2002	2 nd Quarter 2003	%CHANGE
Larceny from Building	44	61	+39%
Larceny from Person	36	45	+25%
Commercial Burglary	16	8	-50%
Commercial Robbery	2	4	*Inc.
Shoplifting	60	37	-38%
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	33	43	+30%

*Note: percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to lead to a statistically misleading percentage.